

THE COURIER

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Harriet Beecher Stowe (1811-1896) ca. 1865.

Photo courtesy of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission

Harriet Beecher Stowe Finds “Intellectual Activity” in Western Maine

Editor's Note: The letter quoted below was apparently written by Harriet Beecher Stowe (1811-1896) in the summer of 1852 after the appearance of her most famous book, Uncle Tom's Cabin in April of that year. Mrs. Stowe wrote at least a portion of her celebrated volume in Maine where her husband Calvin was a professor at Bowdoin College. The lady, to whom President Lincoln was alleged to have said, “so you are the little lady who wrote the book that created this great war” was a frequent traveler and keen observer of life in America and Europe possessing a thoroughly reliable ear for words and conversation in the tradition of other New England local colorists such as Sarah Orne Jewett. She recorded some observations of life in Bethel, Oxford County, and the surrounding countryside, which appeared in The

Continued on page 2



The barn (ca. 1813) connected to the Dr. Moses Mason House will be the only such structure where the Smithsonian Institution exhibit, “Barn Again! Celebrating and American Icon” will be housed during its Maine appearances. The exhibit will be in Bethel from August 19 through October 22, 2005.

SMITHSONIAN BARN EXHIBIT TOURS MAINE

Combine the prestige of the Smithsonian Institution, the program expertise of the Maine Humanities Council and the enthusiasm of three Maine museums, plus the engaging history of rural Maine, and the result is *Barn Again! Celebrating an American Icon*.

For the first time ever, this outstanding exhibit from the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition Service is touring Maine and will be on view in three locations between April and October: April 7 through June 8, Saco Museum (York County), June 15-August 12, Musée culturel du Mont-Carmel in Lille (Aroostook County) and August 19 through October 22, Tuesday through Sunday, 1-4 P.M. at the Bethel Historical Society (Oxford County).

This exhibit explores the barn in all its aspects. Each site will include local historical artifacts relating to barns and displays high-lighting the history and role of the farmer in Maine. This is an appealing exhibit for the whole family with examples of old toys, period advertising, and historical images of barns in Maine and across the country. Special activities, demonstrations, events and workshops are being planned in each location in conjunction with the exhibit.

The Maine Humanities Council expects thousands of
Continued on page 3

(*Harriet Beecher Stowe, continued from page 1*)
Portland Transcript for 25 September 1852 with this preface:
"Mrs. Stowe sends another delightful letter from Maine."
The entire text is printed below. For those wishing to learn
more about Mrs. Stowe's life and literary pursuits, see *Forest
Wilson, Crusader in Crinoline: The Life of Harriet Beecher
Stowe (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott, 1941)* and *Joan D.
Hedrick, Harriet Beecher Stowe: A Life (New York: Oxford
University Press, 1994)*.

These nooks and hollows among the mountains produce a
race of intellectual activity.

You go into a plain farm house, where the furniture and all
the appurtenances retain the most primitive simplicity—but be
not surprised if you see Latin, Greek, and German books
lying on the table. You look inquiringly, and are told perhaps
a certain Mary or Maria, who is keeping school up at
Umbagog, or out of the way place, whose books are these.
She has long done using them—she got them when she first
began; now she has left them for Cynthia or Louise, or some
other fair successor in the family line, who is equally hardy
and energetic in her attacks upon the tree of knowledge. Ten
to one you get a glimpse of said Cynthia, who proves a
slender, blue-eyed girl, trimly dressed, with a pair of very
pretty earrings in her ears, and an air of quiet composure, and
savoir faire which shows you she is princess of the blood in
her regions. You talk with her, and find she has a mind as
sharp and bright and keen as one of the quartz crystals among
her own mountains. She has been to the academy in the
neighboring town. She has a fancy for drawing, and maybe
shows you a crayon head or a landscape, which you did not
expect to see just then—she wishes she could learn more about
it—she has a cousin who paints in oils—she thinks perhaps,
after she has taught a quarter or two, she will save enough to
get to Portland, and take lessons of a master.

One is struck with the intellectual activity of the Maine
woman, wherever he travels among them. A friend of mine
told me the other day that in one of one of the towns where he
was visiting, in the clergyman's family, he was surprised to
find the walls decorated with oil paintings which he thought
it quite beyond the means of his friend to have purchased.

"Where did you get these paintings?" he asked.

"Oh, these! My wife painted them!" was the reply.

The same gentleman relates that another time, when
hospitably entertained in an obscure settlement, far out in the
woods of Maine, being struck with the domestic talents and
agreeable manners of his hostess, he entered into some
conversation with her. Knowing he was connected with the
collegiate institution in Brunswick, she inquired with great
interest after a young gentleman there, adding as an apology
for her inquisitiveness. "I feel interested in that young man,
for I fitted him for college."

My friend, of course, thought she alluded to some such
fitting as knitting his stockings, or making his shirts—and
made a remark to that effect.

"Oh, no," said the lady composedly, "I mean that I taught
him Greek and Latin, and so on, and of course I should wish
to hear that he was doing well." It seemed to be quite an off
course affair to her, nothing to what she could do. I can
assure you, by the by, that these women are yeomen

housekeepers, and that you will never taste the Latin and the
Greek in sour bread or bad butter, or see the drawing looking
out of holes in dresses.

The fact is, that sterile soil and a harsh climate though not
good for growing anything else are first rate for raising men
and women; and men and women, in the full, emphatic sense
of the word, are the staple produce of Maine. The long
cheerless winters here are powerful educators, both
physically and morally—physically in the amount of oxygen
and vitality which they form into the system, intellectually in
the leisure which they force on one for intellectual pursuits.
Apropos of the winters, I will relate an anecdote which I
heard in my village under the mountains, which might give
some of our Southern friends a new idea of what a winter
here is like.

Said one of our friends, whose house lies directly under
the mountains—"Last winter the snow was banked up quite to
the ridge-pole of the house."

"Is it possible?" I exclaimed. "Why, what did you all do?"

"Tunneled though it!" said my friend composedly. "We
had a tunnel some fifteen feet to the road."

"And pray, how long did it last?" said I.

"Well about six months," said he.

"It made the house very warm indeed," added his wife,
"almost oppressive." This was one view of a snow-bank that
had never suggested itself to me. But I must add to what I
said about the Maine women and girls, one drawback—one is
impressed with it even in the most mountainous districts—the
want of an appearance of robust health. The young girls are
fair, sparkling intellectual-looking, but they are wanting in
physique. They look like the forest flowers—very fair but as
if a breath might wither them. The mind seems altogether to
have got the start of the body. The long winters may have
something to do with this. For more than half of the year, the
female sex in this climate are in-doors, in stove-heated rooms,
generally very partially ventilated, as rooms in cold weather
always are. Here they read, and study and sew—and go out
most, only in the pleasant weather—often only in sleighs, with
fathers and brothers to drive them, and the sleigh is a vehicle
that gives no sort of exercise. Can we not see in this fact the
reason for the predisposition to diseases of the lungs which is
constantly the terror of every parent in New England, and
which seals every year hundreds of her fairest for the grave?
Think of the contrast between the stove-heated room, where
one is kept almost at the point of perspiration, and the lungs
constantly inhaling warm air, and the sharp, keen, cutting air
that is breathed without. There is no remedy for this, but a
hardier habit of life. A young girl in New England is never
secure against consumption, but by keeping her physical
vigor up to the highest point. She should go out regularly
every day, in all weathers, and familiarize her lungs with the
outdoor atmosphere. She should fortify her skin with daily
cold bathing, wear short walking dresses, prefer walking to
the sleigh, practice skating and outdoor amusements, after the
example of European ladies in a similar climate—and then the
long winter will be to her, as it is to the other sex, a
discipliner and invigorator of the system, and not a constant
enemy.

H.B.S.

(Barn Exhibit, continued from page 1)

visitors to view *Barn Again!* during its Maine tour and is excited about the interest the exhibit will generate from local residents, as well as tourists visiting from out of state. The exhibit has broad appeal to audiences interested in history, farming, historic preservation, and the cultural landscape of rural America.

The Maine Humanities Council is hosting this tour with support from the Maine Department of Agriculture, the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, the Maine Office of Tourism, Maine Preservation, and the Maine Tourism Association.

Additional information on *Barn Again!* is available by visiting the Maine Humanities web-site at www.mainehumanities.org and clicking the *Barn Again!* link. Another source is the Historical Society's web-site: www.bethelhistorical.org

Among the special events programming relating to the exhibit during its Bethel appearance are the following:

August 19—Reception for the Opening of the Exhibit

September 8—Annual Meeting—Lecture, Christi Mitchell, Maine Historic Preservation Commission, "History of Maine Barns"

September 17—Barn Tour and Barn Dance

October 8—Grange Supper and Maine Humorist

October 13—Lecture, William Bunting, "A Day's Work"

October 22—Closing of the Exhibit Reception, Lecture by Project Scholar Don Cyr, "Aroostook Barns"

BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S COMMITMENT TO THE FUTURE

The Bethel Historical Society is committed to building on its reputation as a premier regional history center that will continue to enrich the educational and cultural life of its community for generations to come. Members and friends have generously contributed to the operations of the Society and to the acquisition of the Robinson House. In order to ensure the long-term maintenance and further development of the Center's facilities, programs, and collections, the Society is seeking new forms of support. You, readers of *The Courier*, are asked to consider making a charitable gift to the Society through a bequest in your will, the establishment of a trust, or a number of other financial arrangements and options that are available. These charitable gifts can be structured to support the Society's mission while at the same time assuring the security of your family. For more information, please contact the Society by calling (207) 824-2908 or (800) 824-2910 or by writing to P.O. Box 12, Bethel, ME 04217-0012 or by emailing: info@bethelhistorical.org

President's Column

This issue contains the annual listing of members in the various categories. Membership growth is important to us as we count heavily upon our members for volunteer services and financial support. The Membership Committee works hard to keep the Society's membership growing. Today membership stands at nearly 1300 in 46 states, several Canadian provinces, the United Kingdom and Germany. Several mailings this year to potential members have helped swell the rolls. We anticipate several more mailings throughout the year. Please consider giving gift memberships or inviting others to join. There is a membership application on page 11 of every issue of *The Courier*. Together we can keep the Society growing!

Arlan R. Jodrey

Capital Campaign Update

Over \$692,000 has been raised to date from cash, stock, gifts, pledges, grants, and challenges from over 400 donors. Another comprehensive listing of those making gifts will be included in a future issue. To learn more about this important Society project or to make a capital gift in any amount, see our web-site address on page 12 or call (800) 824-2910 or write us at P.O. Box 12, Bethel, ME 04217-0012.

ANNUAL FUND

Help keep the Society strong by making a gift to its Annual Fund Campaign. Tax deductible contributions help support its exhibits, special events, publications, and other programming. Gifts in any amount may be made throughout the year to the Society at P.O. Box 12, Bethel, ME 04217-0012.

In Memoriam

Died, 8 January 2005, Muriel Whitney, Bethel, Life Member
Died, 1 February 2005, Virginia Hood, Presque Isle, Sustaining Member
Died, 23 February 2005, Wilma Gorman, Bethel, Life Member
Died, 23 February 2005, Edna Curtis, Bethel, Senior Member
Died, 16 March 2005, Thomas J. Ford, Waldoboro, Life Member
Died, 20 March 2005, Stanley Lord, Bethel, Senior Member
Died, 6 April 2005, Arthur Gilbert, West Bethel, Senior Member
Died, 24 April 2005, Sue Wight, Newry, Life Member
Died, 2 May 2005, Fillmore "Bud" Clough, Moncks Corner, SC, Life Member
Died, 10 May 2005, Gwilym Roberts, Farmington, Senior Member

Bethel Historical Society Membership List as of May 2005

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Erin Murphy, Bethel; Jessica Smith, Bethel

Western Maine Saints: Mormon Missionaries in the 1830s

By Mary E. Valentine



Editor's Comments: The area covered by this article and subsequent ones includes the present-day Maine towns of Andover, Bethel, Hanover, Newry, and Upton. Before being incorporated as a town in 1796, Bethel was known as Sudbury Canada because land grants established along the Androscoggin intervals were given to descendants of soldiers from Sudbury, MA, who served in the invasion of Canada in 1690. The southern portion of present-day Newry on the Sunday and Bear rivers was chartered as a town in 1805; the northern part of Bear River from the Branch to the Grafton line, was part of Andover West Surplus, an unorganized territory until 1836 when the settlers petitioned the Maine Legislature to allow them to join the town of Newry. This upper part of the Bear River settlement was also called by some "Head O' Tide" (also known as "Head of the Tide"); hence the name of the first school in the area, and the cemetery assigned to North Newry. The town of Hanover was created in 1843, by taking part of Bethel north of Newry Corner and adding it to Howard's Gore. As W. B. Lapham explains in his History of Bethel, a "gore" in this part of Maine is a piece of land left over when the town lines around it are run out. Andover was named for Andover, MA when some settlers came to Maine looking for a place to expand from the Massachusetts town. Col. John York of Bethel suggested they follow the Androscoggin River north from Bethel, past Sunday River and Bear River; the next river, the Ellis, he suggested, would be a good place for settlers from Andover, MA. North of Bethel and Newry were some tracts with letter names, Letter A, B, C, etc. Letter B was the area east of Lake Umbagog; it began as Letter B Township, then Letter B Plantation, then in 1860, it was incorporated as the town of Upton. Among the sources consulted by the author for this article are memories recorded by Peter Smith Bean on Upton in the 1830s which appeared in the Oxford County Advertiser, 19 March 1893, Rev. Nathaniel Purinton's letter to editor of The Christian Mirror, 19 December 1833, the published diaries of Patty Bartlett Sessions and Perrigrine Sessions, the journals of William E. McLellen, the autobiography of Lucy Meserve Smith, the genealogy of Aaron Merean York, and John Henry Evans' biography of Joseph Smith.

In June 1832, two years after Joseph Smith published the *Book of Mormon*, there came a young man to the home of Daniel Bean, Jr. in Letter B, an unorganized territory in the western mountains of Maine, just east of Lake Umbagog. He introduced himself as Horace Cowan, and said another man would be coming from Colebrook, NH, the next day to join him. Cowan was looking for a place where the two men could get room and board for a few days, and he also wanted a place where he and his companion could preach the Mormon doctrine. Both Daniel Bean, Sr., and his son and namesake had, since coming to Letter B in the 1820s, welcomed clergymen representing various denominations—Baptist, Congregational, Methodist, Unitarian—and offered them a meeting room where they could preach. In that remote pioneer settlement, visitors "from away" were usually welcomed for the news they brought from the "civilized" world, and for many the preaching provided a change from the

daily round of farm work and homemaking chores. So Daniel Bean, Jr., welcomed Horace Cowan and offered him the use of a space that had been used in the past for preaching and other meetings. The next day Hazen Aldrich arrived and the two Latter-Day Saints began telling their story to anyone who had the time or interest to listen. One of Daniel Bean's sons later reported that the preaching of Hazen Aldrich and Horace Cowan was so well received that the Mormons soon organized a church of a large number of members, entirely breaking up the Free Will Baptists and the Congregationlists. As Peter Smith Bean recalled, "They took whole families....Half the settlers left and were believers in the Mormon doctrine."

At Thanksgiving, the following November, there was a family reunion of the Beans in Letter B; many of Daniel Bean's sons and daughters came to Letter B with their spouses and children for the holidays. When they left, Daniel Bean and Margaret Shaw Bean went home with their daughter, Dolly Bean Grover, to spend the winter in West Bethel; the next spring, 16 March 1833, Daniel Bean, Sr., died at his daughter's home in West Bethel. About a week later, Horace Cowan returned to Letter B and Daniel Bean was baptized 23 March 1833, into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons). He became active as an Elder, missionary and leader of the LDS branch in the western Maine mountains.

Some former parishioners of a Rev. Nathaniel Purinton of Bowdoin, Maine, wrote to him about the visits of the Mormon missionaries to Letter B, and Nathaniel Purinton decided to visit the area in the fall of 1833, to see for himself what was happening in the religious life of the community there. In December, he wrote a letter to the *Christian Mirror*, a weekly published in Portland by the Congregational Church, telling of his visit to Letter B. He had attended a church service led by Daniel Bean, heard him preaching "in tongues," and talked with him after the service, when Daniel Bean had told him that he expected to travel to Missouri, where Christ would soon make his second appearance.

Daniel Bean seems to have remained active as a leader of the local LDS branch for the next three years. In the spring of 1834, Daniel Bean and John F. Boynton (one of the first quorum of the Twelve Apostles) visited the home of John and Hannah Knight Libby Carter in Newry. Eliza Ann, one of Hannah's daughters later wrote of this visit, "...my mother lay very sick. The doctors had given her up. The Elders told her they were preaching a new doctrine and that she could be healed if she could have faith." They laid hands on her and prayed that she would be made whole; she arose and dressed and walked about half a mile to Bear River, where she was baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. This healing led to six of the Carter's nine children joining the LDS Church. Most of them were baptized in June 1834. Hannah's daughter also named Hannah, who had married Aaron Merean York, was baptized with her husband by Daniel Bean.

On 2 July 1834, Daniel Bean baptized Patty Bartlett Sessions, the first of her family to join the LDS. She had heard the preaching of Horace Cowan when he traveled south from Letter B to Andover West Surplus (now North Newry) in 1833 and had believed, but waited until her husband agreed to her being baptized the next summer.

In August 1835, Daniel Bean traveled for a period of time with the LDS missionary William McLellen, who had been appointed at one time to the quorum of Twelve Apostles. Elders Bean and McLellen blessed children in Errol, NH;

McLellin accompanied Daniel Bean back to Letter B, where McLellin preached and broke bread with the Letter B Saints. Bean and McLellin traveled together to Rumford Point, where they heard Elder David Patten preach; then back to Andover West Surplus, where McLellin visited the home of David and Patty Bartlett Sessions, and preached. The next week Daniel Bean received word that William McLellin was expected to attend the conference in Farmington, ME the next weekend; Daniel escorted him to Farmington from whence he traveled back to the West. The next summer (1836) at a conference in Maine, Daniel Bean was appointed clerk and represented the LDS branches of Errol, NH and Newry, ME.

Who was this Daniel Bean, who served as an Elder and missionary for the LDS Church from his baptism in the spring of 1833 through the summer of 1836, then disappears from the local scene?

Lucy Meserve Smith, a cousin of Daniel's wife and daughter of Lucy Bean Smith, a cousin of Daniel, identifies him as Daniel Bean, Jr., son of Daniel Bean and Margaret Shaw Bean, and grandson of the Jonathan Bean who came to Sudbury Canada (later Bethel) from Standish in 1781 with three sons and settled beside the Androscoggin River in the Middle Intervale section of Bethel. Daniel, Jr., was born in 1796 in Bethel and married in 1821 Betsey Smith, daughter of Ithiel and Lucy Littlehale Smith of Newry. After his marriage, he worked for a time as a cabinetmaker in East Bethel. His father Daniel Bean, Sr., at an age when most men would be thinking of retiring to a more leisurely life, sold his Bethel farm and moved to the unorganized territory of Letter B. His grandson later wrote that he was attracted to this wilderness area by the tall pines waiting to be cut, the abundance of fish in Lake Umbagog, and by the multitude of ducks and fur-bearing animals that could provide food for a family. After Daniel Bean, Jr.'s third child was born, Daniel and Betsey and the children traveled to Letter B to visit Daniel's parents, liked what they saw there and moved to Letter B, probably between 1826 and 1829.

Perhaps it was the hard frost in Letter B, early in August 1836, that finally persuaded Daniel Bean to leave Letter B. By the 1840 census, the Bean family had left the area. It is difficult to know precisely when they left or what route they followed, but in 1844 their daughter was married in Cold Springs, Wisconsin, and their oldest son married in the same location in 1849. According to the Bean genealogy, the remaining members of the family were living in Iowa in 1850. Betsey Smith Bean died in October 1868 in Iowa. Daniel Bean went back to Wisconsin, where he married in Little Falls Elizabeth Johnson in 1879. He died in Cataract, Wisconsin, in 1882.

Why Wisconsin? Perhaps he had heard from Mormon friends on the frontier that when the Mormons were driven from Missouri, it was suggested that they settle in Wisconsin, which had just been made a new Territory in 1836.

In addition to the LDS missionaries previously mentioned who had contact with Bethel's Daniel Bean, Brigham Young and Lyman Johnson, in August 1835, held a conference at the Sessions family home in Andover West Surplus, and crossed the Androscoggin to preach in the Middle Intervale Church in Bethel, which was without a settled pastor at the time. Brigham Young returned in 1836 and a number of Bethel and Newry families heeded his urging to sell their farms in Maine and travel to Ohio or Missouri to establish a home for the Saints where they could live together according to their

religious beliefs without fear of persecution. In future articles in this series, there will be stories of some of these families, their lives before leaving Maine, the hardships they endured crossing the plains, and their contributions to the settlement of Utah.

(to be continued in the next issue)

Diary of William S. Hastings

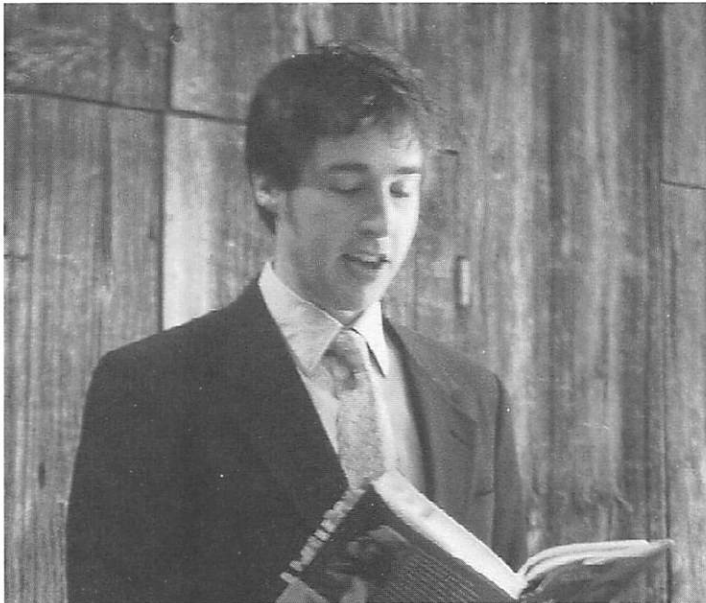
(continued from the last issue)



1941-- October 30, 3 hr. for Chapman & Lowe. 1 hr. for Lowe. 2 hrs. on Wiley Pasture. October 31, Clear, cool. Butchered veal. P.M. 3 ½ hrs. on Wiley Pasture & finished. Gene ½ day. Evening served as Asst. Patron at Guest Officers' night at Jefferson Chapter. November 1, Rain. Mapping in a.m. P.M. went to Bethel, saw Selectmen, etc. November 2, Clear a.m. Rain p.m. Hauled dirt & graded around waterbox. P.M. went to Greenwood. November 3, Finished laying steel on Bean barn. November 4, Clear & warm. 4 hrs. counting stumps & estimating for Mrs. Machia in Albany L2R1. 2 hrs. on first range line L12-13 Bethel for Chadbourne. Ruth is on Grand Jury. November 5, Clear & warm. Ground oats & worked on cement wall of barn yard. Back went out a little. November 6, Clouding & rain in p.m. 3 hrs. on Les Davis' East line L19R6. 1 ½ hr. research. November 7, Rain. So. Paris. 4 hrs. research for L. Davis. Treatment & cold shot. Ruth finished Grand Jury. November 8, Clear & warm. Phil Chadbourne has 2 more jobs. Map of his mill yards, etc. & one in Waterford. 4 hrs. for Les Davis in L18 & L19R5, Bethel. Rain at night. November 9, Clear & warm. Patched gutter on Dad's shed; helped on his camp porch floor. In p.m. we went to Camp & up river 3 miles. Car carburetor is sticking open. November 10, Clouding. Director's Meeting at Paris. November 11, Cloudy. 5 hrs. for Frank Hunt in Village. 3 hrs. for P.H.C. on map job. November 12, Cloudy, cold. 6 hrs. on 1st range line, L12 & 13, Bethel. P.H.C., 3 hrs. Les Davis, 3 hrs. Parent's night at Gould. November 13, Clear & warm. 7 hrs. on Town Farm lines. Masonic Annual. I'm Junior Warden. November 14, Cloudy, warm. 7 hrs. on Town farm. November 15, Cloudy, cold. Mr. Hammond of West Sumner called on line trouble. 5 hrs. for P.H.C. (map job). November 16, Cloudy, cold. A.M. round home. P.M. Greenwood. November 17, Clear, cold. Ernest Bisbee & I searched the Oxford Registry for Town Farm deeds, etc. 4 hrs. November 18, Clouding. So. Paris as witness in Winslow case. 2 hr. research for P.H.C., 1 hr. for Davis, 1 hr. for F. L. Edwards. November 19, Clear, warm. 8 hr. on Town Farm N. & W. lines. November 20, Clear & warmer. Grover's folks & our family went to camp for Thanksgiving dinner. Built front of porch. Nice trip. November 21, Clear & cool. 7 hrs. on P.H.C. Map job. 3 hrs. for drafting. November 22, Clear & cold. 5 hrs. on P.H.C. Map job. Bill helped me. November 23, Snow. Went to Rumford Corner on Thurston line. Greenwood in p.m. November 24, Clear, cold, and windy. Started Newry-Riley town inc, 8 hrs. From Grafton line to middle of 5th range to Riley. November 25, Clear & cool. Ran to corner of 8 & 9 in Riley. 8 hrs. November 26, Clear & warm. Reached top of of Black Mnt. On "Riflesight," 2084 rods from Newry line. 5 miles walk out at night to Williamson Place.

(To be continued in the next issue)

Photo Gallery



Jeremiah E. Goulka presents a lecture on General Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain at a gathering following the Oxford County League spring meeting where Oxford County Bicentennial Coordinator Larry Glatz discussed the celebration that will culminate in a day long series of activities including lectures, parade, muster, craft demonstrations and much more on June 11 at Paris Hill. Mr. Goulka, an attorney in Washington, DC, and an independent scholar, has edited a collection of General Chamberlain's letters after the Civil War that was published by the University of North Carolina Press in 2004.



Jim Rose, portraying an 18th century citizen of Massachusetts, addresses those attending the April 18 "Antiquarian Supper".
Danna Nickerson Photo



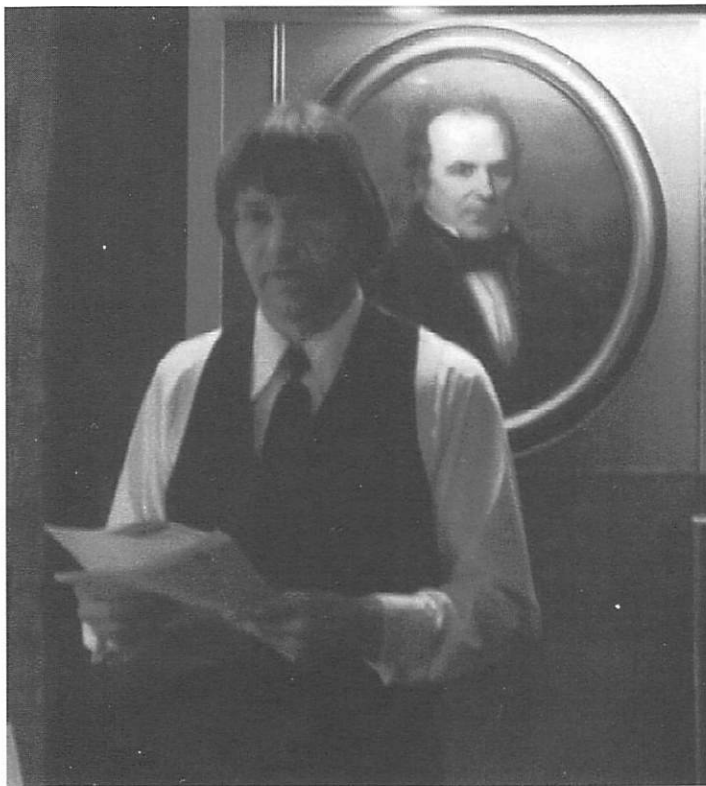
Society member Ben B. Conant, left, Curator of the Paris Cape Historical Society and the Secretary-Treasurer of the Oxford County League of Historical Societies, obtains a book autographed by Jeremiah Goulka, who edited a collection of General Chamberlain's post Civil War letters.



Hungarian student visitors and their Gould Academy hosts pause in front of the Society's O'Neil Robinson House (1821) following their tour in April 2005.



Several of those attending the Society's course "History of Maine Farming" at the O'Neil Robinson House pause to consider the use of a farm tool brought in by a member of the class.



Society Curator of Collections Randall Bennett speaks at the "Antiquarian Supper" held on Patriot's Day, April 18. Bennett shared details of the three events in the 1850s when Dr. Nathaniel Tuckerman True of the Bethel Farmer's Club provided the leadership for a gathering of people to recall the past, bring historical artifacts for viewing, and enjoy a bountiful meal (the menu was based on what was reported in a contemporary newspaper, The Oxford Democrat). The evening ended with a patriotic recitation by Jim Rose, dressed as a citizen of Massachusetts might have looked in the 18th century.



Grave marker of Society benefactor Barbara Willey and her parents in Hillcrest Cemetery, Milan, NH. Ms. Willey, who died in 2001, left the Society \$117,500 to provide an endowment for the care and maintenance of the Austin Twitchell Collection and the Dr. Moses Mason House. The final transfer of these funds from her trust to the Society was completed in 2004.



Member Profile Dorothy Googins

Dorothy Googins was born in Cumberland, Maine, the daughter of Hollis and Virginia Thurlow. She attended Falmouth schools and graduated from Falmouth High School. In 1953, she married Charles Googins of Falmouth, a machinist, later becoming the parents of eight children. They moved to Cumberland on a farm where their children were active in the 4-H. During these years, her husband was employed by Southworth Machine and Rich Tool and Die. After over forty-nine years in Cumberland, they decided to move to Albany and celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in their recently purchased home there. Mrs. Googin is a member of the Falmouth and Cumberland historical societies and a founding member of the Maine Narrow Gauge Railroad Museum, where she still volunteers. Her hobbies include spinning, weaving, making cheese, reading and cooking. She and her husband have twenty-one grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

At the Society, she has been one of the faithful members who have volunteered regularly for several years in helping with the museum shop.

New Life Members

Wilder K. and Alice M. Abbott, Bethel
Michael Alexander, Bal Harbour, FL
Ralph Berube, Bethel
Edward A. Cellupica, Bethel
Earl Coolidge, Bethel
Harry and Elaine Dresser, Bethel
David and Mary Everett, Norway
Betsey Foster, Greenwood
David Freiday, Bethel
Juanita Haines, West Bethel
George and Charlene Haines, Bethel
Charles and Mary Millard, Bristol, RI
Robert and Joan Moorehead, Paris
Peter R. Stowell, West Gardiner
Michael and Gail Witter, Bethel

Book Note

First Auto Trip Up Mt. Washington: Centennial 1899-1999 Commemorative Program, August 8, 1999 (Kingfield, ME: Stanley Museum, 1999), Pp. 36. Paper. \$3.95

This 36 page booklet contains a wealth of information on the 1899 ascent up Mt. Washington via Stanley Steamer by its inventor Freelan Oscar Stanley of Newton, MA. His was the first "horseless carriage" to make it to the top of New England's highest mountain. Facsimiles of articles in *Among the Clouds* and *Stanley Steam Car*, plus other commemorative materials are included, providing a context for the 1999 centennial event. Flora (Mrs. F. O.) Stanley's account of the first ascent also appears here as well. For those desiring a record of the Centennial celebration, there are lists of all the Steamers, their owners and pertinent data on each vehicle that made the climb in 1999. In fact, this booklet served as an admission ticket to the event and includes a list of sponsors on the back cover. Anyone interested in antique automobiles and/or White Mountain history will find this a valuable resource that has been remaindered from its original \$10 list price and is currently available while the supply lasts.

SRH

For ordering information, please see page 12.

Editor's Corner

This issue contains news of the Smithsonian Institution exhibit "Barn Again! Celebrating an American Icon" coming the Bethel, one of only three locations in Maine where the exhibit can be viewed thanks to the support of several sponsors and the Maine Humanities Council. We are planning programming to accompany this exhibit in order to highlight the importance of barns and farming from the earliest days of Maine's history. These events can be found elsewhere in this issue. I hope readers who can will come and enjoy this outstanding exhibit experience and participate in a least some of the accompanying programming.

SRH

Society Launches E-News

The Society now e-mails program and event announcements, plus regular Society news, to members and friends. If you wish to be added to that list of recipients, please contact us by writing P.O. Box 12, Bethel, Maine 04217, by calling (207) 824-2908 or (800) 824-2910 or by e-mailing info@bethelhistorical.org.

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Arlan Jodrey, President; Allen Cressy, Vice President; Susan Herlihy, Secretary and Clerk of the Trustees; Walter Hatch, Treasurer; Trustees: June Abbott, Alvin Barth, Dorothy Bartlett, John Head, and Barbara Lapham.

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Membership in the Society entitles you to:

- Free admission to the period house museum.
- A 10% discount on purchases of \$10 or more from the Society's Museum Shop
- Special Research Library privileges, including reduced photocopying fees
- Subscription to the Society's quarterly, *The Courier*
- Preferred rate for exhibit hall/meeting room rental
- Voting rights in the Society
- Reduced course fees
- Special invitations to Society events

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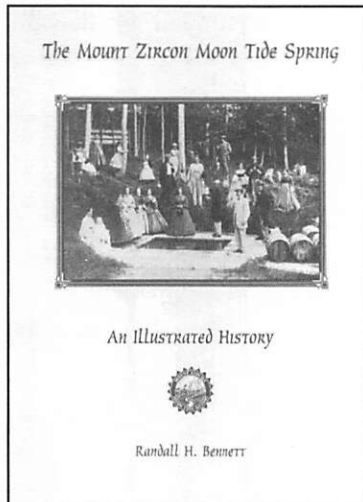
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The Bethel Historical Society
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FROM THE MUSEUM SHOP*



The Mount Zircon Moon Tide Spring *An Illustrated History* by Randall H. Bennett

Published in 1997 in a limited edition of only 500 copies, this book presents the story of one of America's oldest commercial springs, near Rumford, Maine, made famous by its unusual tidal behavior. Includes many rare photographs, maps, and advertisements, as well as numerous drawings by the Weld artist Seaverns W. Hilton. 113 pages, paper. \$19.95

To order: Send check or money order to the Bethel Historical Society, P.O. Box 12, Bethel, ME 04217-0012. Members may deduct 10% from prices given on orders of \$10 or more. Shipments to Maine addresses should include 5% sales tax. Shipping fees: under \$10 = \$2.00; \$10 to \$19.99 = \$3.00; \$20 and over = \$4.00

***For a list of additional items available from the Museum Shop, please visit our web site at www.bethelhistorical.org**

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